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SECURITY INFORMATION

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

INFORMATION REPORT

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ACQUIRED [REDACTED]NO. OF ENCLS.
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INFO. [REDACTED]SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

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25X1X 1. [REDACTED] senior lieutenant in charge of political indoctrination and one full-time Party secretary [REDACTED] 25X1X

25X1X [REDACTED] assigned to each unit of the 1st Air Div of the VPL [REDACTED] 25X1X

25X1X [REDACTED] from other branches of the service and had received one year of special training at a political school near Berlin. At the time they received their assignment by the Hauptverwaltung Luft in Berlin. [REDACTED] 25X1X

25X1X [REDACTED] assigned to cadre units in order to acquire practical knowledge there. Due to the rapid development, these cadres would be expanded into units to be activated by May 1953. 1 25X1X

25X1X 2. [REDACTED] radar sets were set up after 24 December 1952 directly on the perimeter of the three airfields of the 1st Air Div of the VPL. They were operated alternately by German and Soviet crews of 1 officer and 6 men. The men of the crews were to get accustomed to the operating of the sets in order to be able to control the sky after further progress of the pilots' training, especially in the event that the pilots were training on faster aircraft types. [REDACTED] the crews had to control the sky to prevent pilots from deserting. [REDACTED] 25X1X

25X1X [REDACTED] 25X1X

3. The men assembled in Pirna in mid-1952 were accommodated in the Signal Corps School on Sonnenstein. They were also examined there as to their fitness for flying. While waiting for further assignment, the men received lessons in the Russian language, which was the main subject, and mathematics and physics as well. All trainees were questioned whether they were willing to take part in a 2-year training course without home leave. They were told individually that they were given but once this opportunity to enter a glamorous career. A signal corps school was also stationed at Pirna. The first air force signal school, which is scheduled to be opened in Dresden in 1953, is to be staffed with men selected from the trainees of the signal corps school. The new school was to be commanded by Senior Lieutenant Kurt Schaefer, about 30 years old, who served as a senior lieutenant with the signal communication troops of the former German Armed Forces and previously directed the signal communication. 25X1A

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tion course of the 1st Air Div in Bautzen. He was to be succeeded there by his deputy, Senior Lieutenant Zwiemer (fny), who had served in the former German Armed Forces as a radio operator.

4. Prior to December 1952, no service manuals were available at the 1st VPL Div.

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Classified material was handed out only for officials use and had to be turned in at the end of the duty hours.

5. The 1st VPL Div conducted basic flight training. Except for the regimental commanders and a limited number of other people none of the flight trainees ever had any previous flight training. The pilot trainees were beginners and had not been trained elsewhere. Except for two pilot trainees in Bautzen who were still trained by flying instructors in late December, the pilot trainees at all three airfields of the 1st VPL Div practiced solo flying. Those at Bautzen had made the least progress in flying due to unfavorable conditions such as fog, rainfall and soft ground. The trainees at Cottbus and Kamenz had almost finished up the aerobatics program. The trainees were supposed to fly loops, rolls to the right and left and practice pulling out of a spin. The demands made on the trainees were considered relatively low. No casualties were mentioned.

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- 25X1A2. Comment. Previous reports mentioned the existence of a radar detachment at the division headquarters and the training of radar operators. However, they mentioned no radar sets at the individual airfields of the VPL.

- 25X1A3. Comment. Previous reports contained indications that instruction courses for signal officers of the VPL were held at the Castle Sonnenstein near Meissen. Mentioning was made of a future occupation of Dresden-Klotzsche airfield by VPL units. Several previous reports mentioned signal communication course in Bautzen. Senior Lieutenant Schaefer and Zwiemer are reported for the first time.

- 25X1A4. Comment. The present report confirms that the pilots of the 1st VPL Div are trainees undergoing initial training. In view of the actual status of training, these pilots may commence training on heavier aircraft during spring or summer. No information has been received on the whereabouts of those pilots who were trained outside East Germany.

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